



BLUE BEETLE

12¢

JANUARY

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



BLUE BEETLE

RUN, JUANITA!
I CAN'T STOP
THIS THING!



HAS THE MIGHTY BLUE BEETLE
FINALLY MET HIS MATCH
IN THE
TERRIBLE... **"PRAYING
MANTIS-MAN"?**

Charlton Action Heroes

HaCsA - Once-Ler scans

Blue Beetle Vol2 #4
Just as bad as the last issue
If you know what's good for
you...you'll download
something else.
Don't forget that
#HaCsA
is on newnet



Im not wearing
any underwear.

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE PRAYING MANTIS-MAN

IN THIS LAND OF GIANTS...OF FOOT-LONG MOSQUITOES, SPIDERS AS BIG AS A MAN-HOLE COVER, AND RATS CAPABLE OF KILLING MEN...THE BLUE BEETLE SHOULD'VE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE BIGGEST MONSTER OF THEM ALL...A PRAYING MANTIS AS BIG AS HIMSELF! A MANTIS WHOSE ARMOR-LIKE SKIN SEEMED IMPERVIOUS TO THE WEAPONS OF MAN...A MANTIS THAT COULD ATTACK AND DESTROY BLUE BEETLE!

CHAPTER

1



DR. DAN GARRETT,
ARCHEOLOGIST AND
CHEMIST

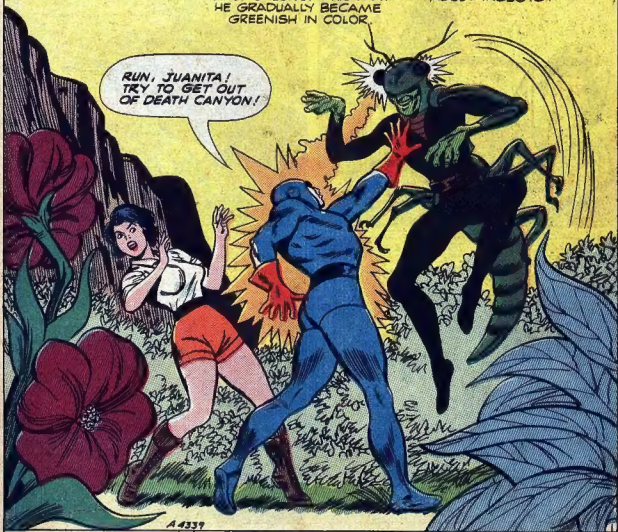


HUNTER MANN, EMINENT
NATURALIST, WHO WORKED
SO LONG WITH PLANTS
AND CHLOROPHYLL THAT
HE GRADUALLY BECAME
GREENISH IN COLOR.



JUANITA RIVERA, MEXICAN
ENTOMOLOGIST, WHO
THOUGHT SHE KNEW
ABOUT INSECTS.

RUN, JUANITA!
TRY TO GET OUT
OF DEATH CANYON!



BLUE BEETLE

IN HIS LABORATORY, DR. GARRETT FREQUENTLY WAS ASKED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN MANY FIELDS... FOR, IN ADDITION TO ARCHEOLOGY, HIS SPECIALTY, DAN GARRETT WAS ALSO QUALIFIED IN CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, AND ALLIED FIELDS...

I'M DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU, MISS RIVERA! I WAS INTRIGUED BY YOUR PAPER ON APHIDS AND TICKS ON THE SUB-TROPICAL NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT!

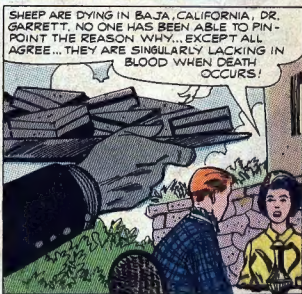
THANK YOU, DR. GARRETT! YOUR OWN CONTRIBUTION ON PLANT APHIDS HELPED ME IMMEASURABLY!



I CAME FOR ASSISTANCE, DR. GARRETT. I HAVE A PROBLEM AND NO WAY TO SOLVE IT!



SHEEP ARE DYING IN BAJA, CALIFORNIA, DR. GARRETT. NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PIN-POINT THE REASON WHY... EXCEPT ALL AGREE... THEY ARE SINGULARLY LACKING IN BLOOD WHEN DEATH OCCURS!

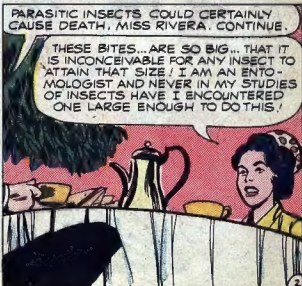


THERE ARE NO WOUNDS... BUT I DID DISCOVER SWELLINGS THAT LOOK LIKE INSECT BITES...



PARASITIC INSECTS COULD CERTAINLY CAUSE DEATH, MISS RIVERA. CONTINUE.

THESE BITES... ARE SO BIG... THAT IT IS INCONCEIVABLE FOR ANY INSECT TO ATTAIN THAT SIZE! I AM AN ENTOMOLOGIST AND NEVER IN MY STUDIES OF INSECTS HAVE I ENCOUNTERED ONE LARGE ENOUGH TO DO THIS!



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

BAJA, CALIFORNIA... BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR! IF I DON'T WASTE TIME, I CAN GATHER MY EQUIPMENT TOGETHER AND BE AIRBORNE BY NOON! I'LL USE MY PLANE, OF COURSE... WILL YOU FLY BACK WITH ME, MISS RIVERA?



YOU'D BETTER START CALLING ME DAN... AND I'LL CALL YOU JUANITA... WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER FOR SOME TIME TO COME!



BY MID-AFTERNOON, DR. DAN GARRETT'S TWIN-JET WAS WELL ON THE WAY...

WE'LL LAND NEAR SANTA ROSALIA... MY CHARTS INDICATE AN AIRFIELD THERE!



I USUALLY FLY WITH A CO-PILOT WHO ASSISTS ME IN MY WORK BUT HE'S AWAY JUST NOW.

I'M GLAD, DR. GARRETT... I'D MUCH RATHER SIT UP HERE THAN IN BACK WITH ALL THAT EQUIPMENT.

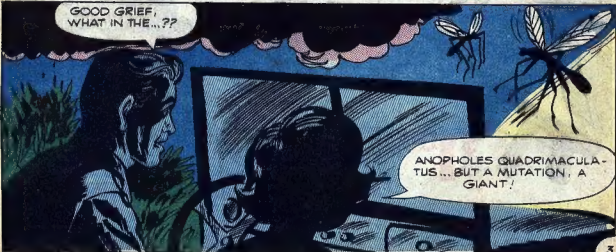


AFTER LANDING, JUANITA RECRUITED LOCAL LABOR TO OFF-LOAD THE PLANE AND SHE RENTED A LAND-ROVER AND TWO TRUCKS FOR THEIR EQUIPMENT...

WE ARE NEARLY AT THE FIELD STATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TECHNICIANS, DAN. AROUND US ON THESE HILLS ARE THOUSANDS OF GRAZING SHEEP...



GOOD GRIEF, WHAT IN THE...??



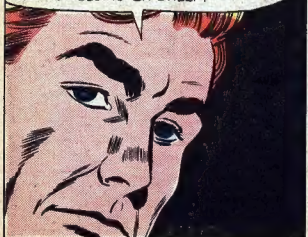
ANOPHELES QUADRIMACULATUS... BUT A MUTATION, A GIANT!



BREAKING THE LANDROVER, DAN GARRETT FIRED TWICE...



THERE'S YOUR EXPLANATION FOR THE SHEEP DEAD FROM LOSS OF BLOOD! ANOPHOLES MOSQUITOES LIVE ON BLOOD... THEY'RE FEEDING ON SHEEP!



AT THE GOVERNMENT STATION, DR. GARRETT WAS INTRODUCED TO MEXICAN FIELD-WORKERS...

...AND YOU BOTH SAW AN ANOPHOLES QUADRIMACULATUS CLEARLY? TWELVE INCHES LONG? JUANITA, YOU ARE A TRAINED ENTOMOLOGIST...



BLUE BEETLE

NOW... IT ONLY REMAINS TO ASCERTAIN WHAT AGENCY HAS INSPIRED SUCH MUTATIONS! I DO NOT BELIEVE THESE SPECIMENS OCCURRED NATURALLY!

NO, DAN! NO MEXICAN SCIENTIST WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO CREATE A GIANT STRAIN OF MOSQUITOES DELIBERATELY!



MISS RIVERA IS RIGHT, DR. GARRETT! BE-SIDES... I KNOW ALL ANATOMOLOGISTS AND FELLOW-SCIENTISTS IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD... I WOULD BE AWARE OF EXPERIMENTS BEING PERFORMED IN THIS FIELD!

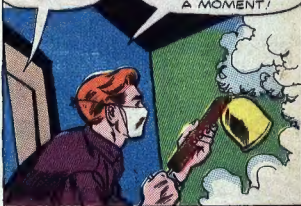
WE'RE NOT SO FAR SOUTH OF THE BORDER... THE MAN RESPONSIBLE COULD BE AMERICAN!



DURING THE NIGHT, FLOCKS OF MOSQUITOS TRIED TO ENTER THE BUILDING... AND ONE GOT INTO DAN GARRETT'S ROOM...

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, DAN?

STAY OUT... I'LL HAVE A SPECIMEN TO EXAMINE IN ONLY A MOMENT!



EXCELLENT! PERHAPS NOW WE CAN TELL WHAT CAUSED THE ACCELERATED GROWTH!



30 MOMENTS LATER...

AS YOU INDICATED, JUANITA... A CHLOROPHYLL COMPOUND IS PRESENT IN THE CELLULAR STRUCTURE!

HOW HORRIBLE! MANKIND WILL PERISH IF INSECTS CAN BE MADE TO GROW TO SIZES THIS BIG!



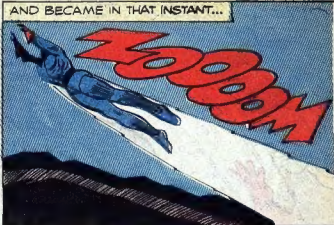
CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE MOSQUITOES KILLED SHEEP AND OTHER MAMMALS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS REGION NEAR THE STATION! DR. DAN GARRETT COULD DO LITTLE... SO HE SOUGHT A QUIET PLACE... AND INVOKED THE POWERS OF THE BLUE SCARAB FROM THE TOMB OF THE ANCIENT PHARAOH...

THE WORDS ARE "KAJI DHA"!



AND BECAME IN THAT INSTANT...



PROWLING THE MOUNTAINS, SEEKING THE MOSQUITOES, USING THE GREAT POWERS BESTOWED BY THE WISE ANCIENTS... TO DESTROY EVIL...



WHAT'S THAT... A STREAK OF LIGHT... CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT'S MAKING IT!



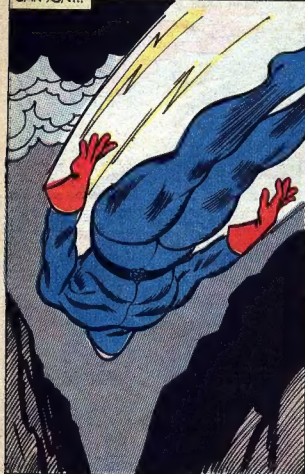
MILES HIGH... BLUE BEETLE SURVEYED THE WORLD BENEATH! HIS SUPER-KEEN EYES SCANNED THE MOUNTAIN RANGES AND VALLEYS... AND HE SAW THE PATTERN OF GIANT MOSQUITOES... STRETCHING NORTH TO THE BORDER... TO A CANYON IN CALIFORNIA...

THAT ONE CANYON STRETCHES BACK INTO THE MOUNTAINS... DENSE VEGETATION COVERS WHAT'S IN THERE... AND THERE IS AN ESTATE AT THE LOWER END OF THE CANYON WITH SEVERAL BUILDINGS!

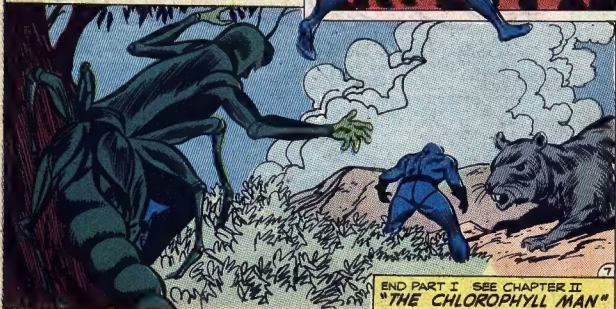


BLUE BEETLE

BLUE BEETLE HEADED DOWN TOWARD THAT CANYON...



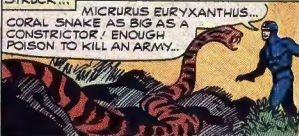
THIS WAS A CANYON WHERE DEATH HAD COME TO LIVE! EVERY FATAL SPECIES OF PLANT, INSECT, AND ANIMAL WAS PRESENT... BUT TREMENDOUSLY LARGE... AND THERE WAS ONE OTHER CREATURE ON HAND WHICH THE BLUE BEETLE DID NOT SEE AT ALL...



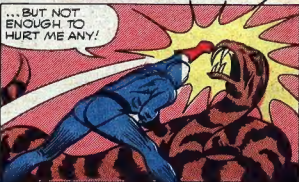
...AND SECONDS LATER WAS SEEING THE GIANT MOSQUITOES! HE LET ONE ALIGHT ON HIS ARM...TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT IT...



IT TOOK A HEALTHY WOLLOP TO END THE CAREER OF THAT PEST! THEN, BLUE BEETLE TURNED, A SNAKE LURKED NEAR AND IT STRUCK...



MICRURUS EURYXANTHUS... CORAL SNAKE AS BIG AS A CONSTRUCTOR! ENOUGH POISON TO KILL AN ARMY...



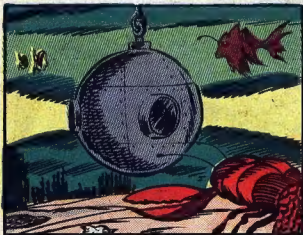
...BUT NOT ENOUGH TO HURT ME ANY!

END PART I SEE CHAPTER II
"THE CHLOROPHYLL MAN"

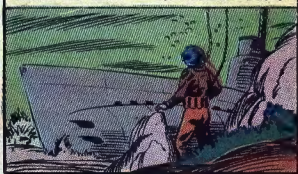
CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE SILENT WORLD

THIS IS MAN'S CENTURY OF EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS/ SPACE...AND THE POLAR CAPS...AND THE DEEP RANGES OF THE GREAT OCEANS!



MAN HAD LET THE FISHES HAVE THE SEA...UNTIL THE FIRST DIVING SUITS WERE DEVELOPED IN THIS CENTURY... BUT, STILL, ONLY A FEW HARDY SOULS VENTURED DOWN TO THE OCEAN FLOOR!



THEN, NEW DIVING TECHNIQUES WERE DEVELOPED...SCUBA DIVING CAME ALONG!

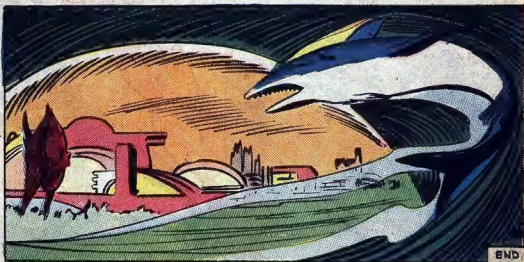


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THE FROGMEN IN THE WARS OF MAN WENT TO NEW DEPTHS... BATTLES WERE FOUGHT BETWEEN MEN... WHERE ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE MEN HAD FEARED TO VENTURE!



THE DAY ISN'T FAR OFF...IN FACT EXPERIMENTAL UNDER-SEA DWELLINGS ARE HERE ALREADY... WHEN CITIES WILL EXIST ON THE OCEAN FLOOR AND MAN WILL PROBE FOR OIL AND MINERALS BENEATH THE SEA BOTTOM!



END

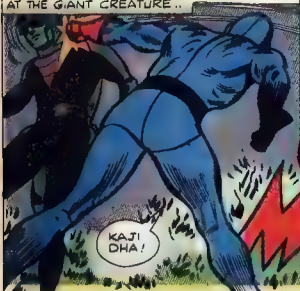
THE CHLOROPHYLL MAN

SUDDENLY, BLUE BEETLE LOOKED UPWARD... AND SAW THE GIANT PRAYING MANTIS HOVERING OVERHEAD! A SICKENING WEAKNESS STRUCK... SO AKIN TO FEAR THAT THE BLUE BEETLE THOUGHT HIS COURAGE HAD GONE! THEN, HE REALIZED IT WAS A STRANGE WEAPON POSSESSED BY THIS TERRIBLE INSECT...

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? THE EYES OF THE CREATURE... THEY EMIT LIGHT... AND THE LIGHT IS SAPPING MY STRENGTH!



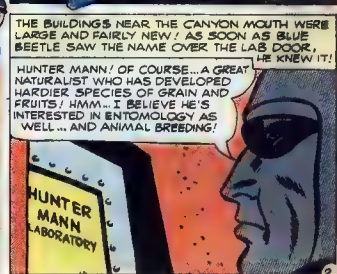
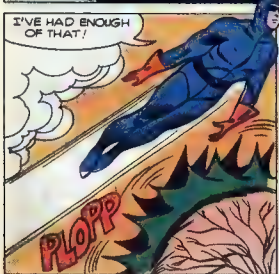
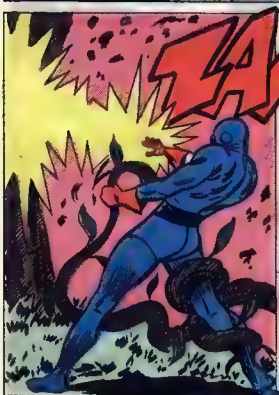
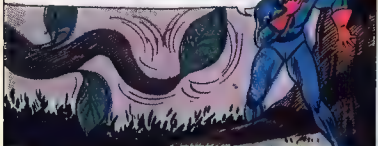
SUMMONING ALL HIS WILL POWER... CALLING UPON THE GREAT POWERS OF THE ANCIENT PHARAOHS... BLUE BEETLE PROPELLED HIMSELF HIGHER... AND HURLED PURE POWER AT THE GIANT CREATURE...



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE MANTIS SEEMED HURT... BUT BLUE BEETLE WAS STILL WEAK AND HE LANDED IN A CLEARING TO RECOVER HIS STRENGTH...

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
DON'T KNOW IF I COULD'VE CARRIED ON MUCH LONGER...WHAT'S HAPPENING??



REVERTING TO THE IDENTITY OF DR. DAN GARRETT, HE ENTERED THE BUILDING! HUNTER MANN WAS PRESENT... HIS SKIN AS GREEN AS NEW GRASS...

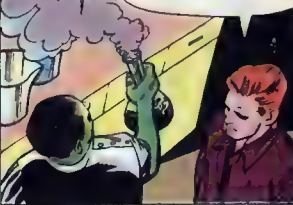
MR. HUNTER MANN? I AM DR. DAN GARRETT... I HAVE READ A GREAT DEAL OF YOUR ARTICLES AND SEEN MUCH OF THE PRODUCTS OF YOUR RESEARCH!

GARRETT? DR. DAN GARRETT?



YOU ARE AN ARCHEOLOGIST, I BELIEVE! I TOO HAVE HEARD OF YOU, SIR! MAY I BE OF SERVICE? IF NOT, I AM QUITE BUSY AS YOU CAN SEE...

YOU SEEM TO BE DISTILLING A CHLOROPHYLL COMPOUND, MR. MANN!

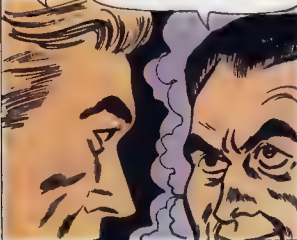


IT IS CHLOROPHYLL, DR. GARRETT! I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WONDERS WITH THIS PIGMENT! WITH XANTHOPHYLL AND CAROTIN, CELLULAR GROWTH IS STIMULATED AND...



PLEASE CONTINUE, MR. MANN!

I'VE SAID ENOUGH, SIR! NOW... THE MEETING IS TERMINATED. PLEASE LEAVE MY PROPERTY, DR. GARRETT!



IF YOU GET TOO CURIOUS, DR. GARRETT, IT MIGHT BE FATAL! THERE ARE INSECTS AND REPTILES ON THE GROUNDS WHICH ARE HOSTILE TO HOMO SAPIENS!

CREATURES SUCH AS... TENODERA SINENSIS, THE PRAYING MANTIS OF ASIA?



BLUE BEETLE

FOR A MOMENT, DR. GARRETT FELT THE BALEFUL EYES OF HUNTER MANN LOCKED ON HIS...AND IMAGINED HE FELT THAT SAME WEAKNESS WHICH HE HAD ENCOUNTERED WHEN THE GIANT MANTIS HAD ALMOST TAKEN HIS LIFE.

YOU HAD BEST LEAVE, DR. GARRETT! IT IS YOUR FINAL OPPORTUNITY... AND IT IS GIVEN ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR EXCELLENT WORK...



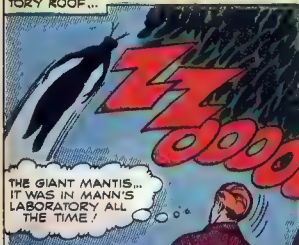
GO, WHILE YOU STILL CAN!



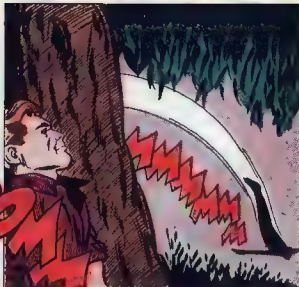
FOR A MOMENT...MY BRAIN WENT NUMB...AND I WAS ALMOST TOO WEAK TO WALK OUT OF THERE! WHAT A STRANGE CREATURE!



HEARING A STRANGE VIBRATING NOISE, THE ARCHEOLOGIST WHEELED...AND SAW THE GIANT MANTIS RISING FROM THE LABORATORY ROOF...

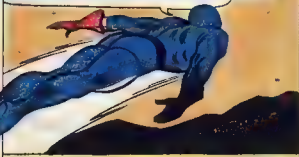


THE GIANT MANTIS... IT WAS IN MANN'S LABORATORY ALL THE TIME!



HIDING UNTIL THE GREAT PRAYING MANTIS WAS OUT OF SIGHT, DR. DAN GARRETT RUBBED THE JEWELLED BLUE SCARAB, SAID "KAJI DHA!" AND BECAME BLUE BEETLE...

I'VE GOT TO REACH JUANITA AND WARN HER... THERE ARE WORSE THINGS THAN GIANT MOSQUITOES IN THE AIR!



END OF CHAPTER II SEE CHAPTER III
"THE GARDEN OF THE CRAWLING DEATH"

THE BEETLE'S NEST

ORIGINAL ART, ANYONE?

Dear Editor:

I think your comics are among the best on the market. Of all your fine books, though, I think B.B. is the best. If you could send me some original art I would be very grateful.

Paul McSpadden
Oklahoma

(Dear Paul: We have received many requests for original art and have had to turn them down. BUT NOW IT CAN BE HAD! see contest in this issue. ----ED.)

CAPTAIN ATOM

Dear Editor:

Good luck with B.B. How about bringing back CAPTAIN ATOM!

Henry Hegman
Philadelphia, Penn.

(Dear Henry: How would you like to see a collector's edition of STEVE DITKO'S, ORIGINAL STORIES OF CAPTAIN ATOM? If enough of you like it, we may publish it!----ED.)

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I like seeing a letter column. However, provocative comments on past issues, and opinions of comics of the 1940's GOLDEN AGE would be very interesting. Why not give it a try?

Dennis Knuth
Augusta, Wisconsin

(Dear Dennis: You send in the provocative comments...we'll print them!----ED.)

YOU'RE LATE!

Dear Editor:

B.B. #2 had a better cover, improved inside and improved story...Keep on getting better and you can't go wrong.

Robert Vann
Bronx, N.Y.

(Dear Robert: Thank you for your kind words... but why haven't you bought issue #3 yet? Let's get moving, boy!----ED.)

WHAT SHALL I WEAR TODAY?

Dear Editor:

Hurray! You've done it. You've received the greatest character ever born in comics. Maybe his costume could be improved? I'd subscribe but I'm broke at the moment, but don't worry I will.

Dave Fitzpatrick
Editor of STAR
Chicago, Ill.

(Dear Dave: Sorry to learn of your current financial status. The President is working on an anti poverty law...who knows maybe comic subscriptions could be included! Look at the next letter, there is another comment about B.B.'s costume. ---ED.)

Dear Editor:

You might make a few costume changes to offset the blue mass. I'd suggest a wider red stripe on the top of the head, and red stripes on his trunks along with a red belt.

Randy Montgomery
Ontario, Canada

(Dear Randy: That costume you describe might be pretty snazzy at that! You and Dave Fitzpatrick have given me an idea...check the contest in this issue.----ED.)

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN.....

Dear Editor:

Don't, under any circumstances, introduce a female character.....

Norman R. Doerner
Bensenville, Ill.

.....INTO THE FIRE!

Dear Editors

Please, please, please give us a girl crime-fighter.

Cynthia Day
New York, N.Y

(I'd like to hear all of our readers opinions on this matter.—ED.)

LET'S HOPE TOGETHER!

Dear Editor:

I'm happy Charlton has at long last entered the hero field. In all my collection, I did not have one of your mags. The reason, I only collect hero comics. I hope B.B. will be the first of many for your company.

Jerry D. Johnson
Crownpoint, New Mexico

(So do I Jerry, so do I!---ED.)

WHY WORRY?

Dear Editor

Think of it, just four years ago national Comics was the only company publishing heroes. Now Marvel (with the fabulous Stan Lee), and at last CHARLTON! If National thought it had trouble with Marvel, can you imagine the white hairs that will begin to show now?

Norman R Doerner
(again)

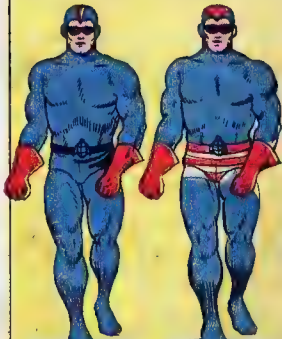
(Dear Norman: Your facts are not altogether correct. But, basically they're close enough to the truth. I agree with your opinion of Stan Lee. He is great,....as far as National getting white hairs, I doubt it! They're a real group of pros at DC and professionals never worry about competition. We don't so why should they?---ED)

WIN an original page of **BLUE BEETLE** comic art

Because some of our readers have commented that Blue Beetle might look better in a different costume...and others have pleaded for original artwork...we have created a contest to settle both matters!

1. Cut out the costume you like best.
2. Send it and 25 words or less, telling us why you made your choice.
3. Mail the cut-out and your letter to Blue Beetle Contest
Charlton Comics
Derby, Connecticut.

10 PAGES OF ORIGINAL ARTWORK FROM THIS ISSUE WILL BE AWARDED TO THE BEST 10 LETTERS WE RECEIVE! HURRY, CONTEST ENDS JANUARY 1ST 1965!



DON'T CHANGE IT!

CHANGE IT!

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THE GARDEN OF CRAWLING DEATH

BUT THE THING BLUE BEETLE HAD BEGUN TO THINK OF AS "THE PRAYING MANTIS MAN" HAD GREAT POWERS! IT FLED ALMOST AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT TOWARD THE PLACE WHERE JUANITA AND HER ASSOCIATES WERE FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR DR. GARRETT WHOM THEY BELIEVED LOST...



THE COURAGEOUS ENTOMOLOGIST FIRED AGAIN ... BUT THEN THE GREAT MANTIS TURNED THE POWER OF ITS EYES ON HER...

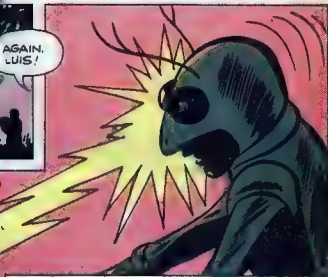
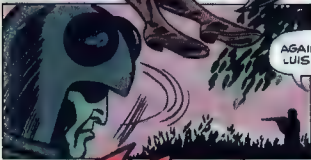


BLUE BEETLE

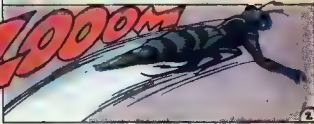
LOOK AT THAT INSECT! IT... IT'S A GIANT PRAYING MANTIS... IT MUST BE MORE THAN SIX FEET TALL! LUIS, YOUR MAGNUM RIFLE!

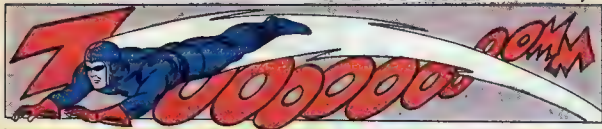


LUIS VELOZ HAD A HUNTING RIFLE AND WAS A CRACK SHOT! THE GREAT INSECT, IF THAT'S WHAT IT WAS, WAS NEAR ITS VICTIM WHEN VELOZ FIRED.



THE MYSTERIOUS RAY LANCED OUT... AND THEN THE PRAYING MANTIS MAN ZOOMED ALOFT! AT SUPER-SONIC SPEED IT JETTED BACK TOWARD THE GARDEN OF CRAWLING DEATH...





FROM FAR AWAY, HE SAW THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL!

ANOTHER INSECT...
A BLUE BEETLE,
PERHAPS?



LANDING BEHIND A CLUSTER OF ROCKS,
BLUE BEETLE TRANSFORMED BACK INTO
THE GUISE OF DR. DAN GARRETT IN A
SPLIT SECOND.

JUANITA!
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?



DAN! I WAS SO AFRAID FOR YOU! I
THOUGHT THE GIANT INSECTS HAD TAKEN
YOUR LIFE! DAN! DAN! DID YOU SEE IT?
A PRAYING MANTIS! A MANTIS BUT IT
WASN'T EXACTLY...

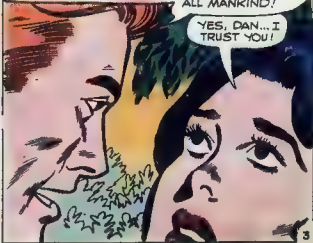


WE'VE GOT TO FIND IT AND END HIS EVIL PLANS!
JUANITA, WILL YOU TRUST ME? I CAN TAKE YOU
TO THE PLACE WHERE THIS EVIL WAS CONCEIVED.
WE MUST DESTROY THE WORK A NATURALIST
NAMED HUNTER MANN HAS DEVELOPED NEW
AND TERRIBLE MUTATIONS WHICH ENDANGER
ALL MANKIND!

I KNOW, JUANITA! IT REALLY ISN'T A
GIANT PRAYING MANTIS AT ALL! IT'S A
MAN... WITH A COSTUME... BUT HE'S GOT
STRANGE POWERS...



YES, DAN... I
TRUST YOU!



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

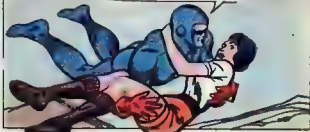
THEY STEPPED BEHIND THE ROCKS! DAN GARRETT GENTLY CLOSED HER EYES AND SHE WAITED TRUSTFULLY...

WHEN CAN I OPEN MY EYES, DAN?

DAN GARRETT
ISN'T HERE... BUT YOU CAN LOOK NOW!



DOWN THERE IS THE BORDER BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES! AND JUST NORTH OF THE BORDER IS THE GARDEN OF CRAWLING DEATH! IT'S HUNTER MANN'S LITTLE PLAYPEN...



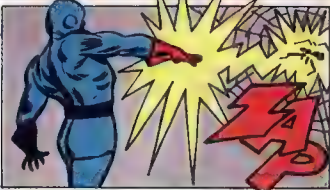
HERE WE ARE!

IT BETTER BE SOLID GROUND!



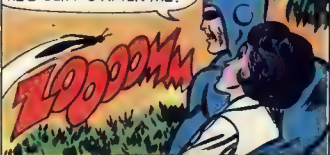
A PARTICULARLY LOATHSOME SPECIES! ABSOLUTELY DEADLY EVEN IN NORMAL SIZE.

I'LL FIX THAT FELLOW!



BUT THE DEADLY CRAWLING, CREEPING, HOPPING, FLYING KILLERS WERE EVERYWHERE...AND EVEN AN ENTOMOLOGIST (A PERSON WHO STUDIES INSECTS) LIKE JUANITA RIVERA COULDN'T COPE!

JUANITA, THERE IT IS...THE MANTIS MAN! GET BACK...HE'S COMING AFTER ME!



END CHAPTER III SEE CHAPTER IV
"THE MANTIS AND THE BEETLE"

THE OUTPOST

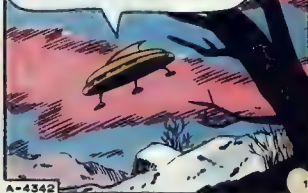
IN 1952, I WAS MANNING AN OUTPOST IN KOREA... IT WAS COLD AND WET... AND THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAD BEEN HOWLING MADMEN IN THE HILLS FOR DAYS!

THEY'RE OUT THERE WAITIN'... LET 'EM COME! I SCROUNGED A SMALL FLAME-THROWER, A GREASE-GUN, A BAZOOKA, AND A DOZEN GRENADES!

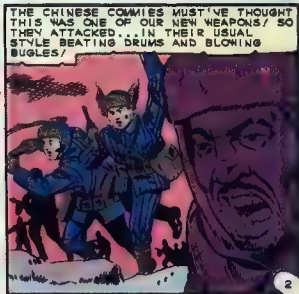
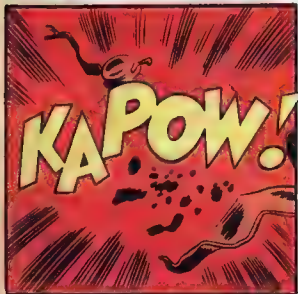
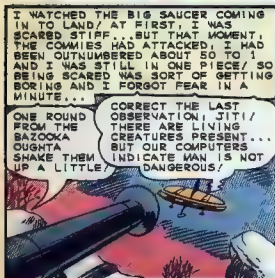


WHILE I WAS SITTING IN THAT HALF-FROZEN MUCK... OVERHEAD, A STRANGE VEHICLE WHISPERED QUIETLY OVER THE KOREAN RIDGES!

THE PROBABILITY OF ENCOUNTERING ANYONE IN THIS WASTELAND IS REMOTE, JITI! YOU MAY LAND!

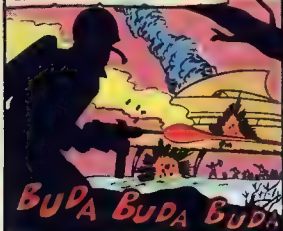


CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!



BLUE BEETLE

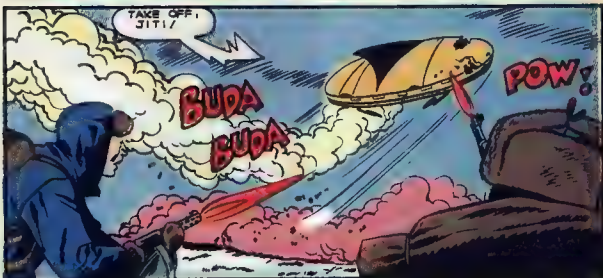
I SAW THE COMBIES ATTACK...IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D HAD A CLEAR SHOT AT THEM IN DAYS...SO I OPENED UP WITH THE GREASE GUN!



OUR TACTICIANS FAILED TO PREDICT THIS UNFAVORABLE REACTION! SEND A MESSAGE TO THE CHIEF...WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED AN UNEXPECTEDLY HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE ON THIS PLANET! WE EARNESTLY RECOMMEND CHOOSING ANOTHER PLANET TO COLONIZE!



TAKE OFF, JITI!



THE COMBIES CAPED UPWARD AFTER THE RISING OBJECT, UNABLE TO BELIEVE THEIR EYES! I HAD A CLEAR SHOT AT THEM...

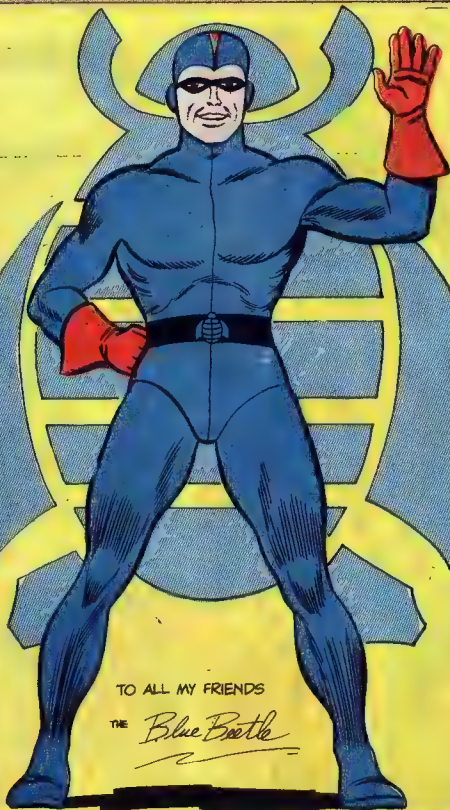
THEY FORGOT ABOUT THE WAR... I WON'T GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN! ONLY A RAT WOULD SHOOT RIGHT NOW!



SO, I'M A RAT, RIGHT?



BLUE BEETLE PIN-UP

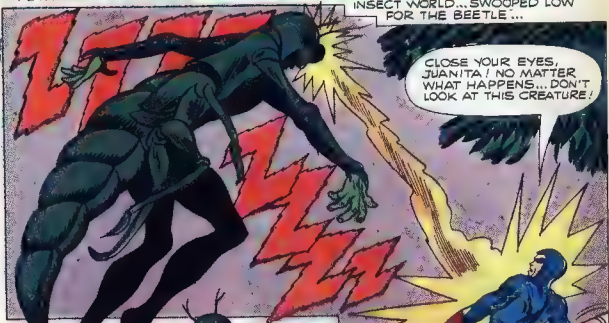


TO ALL MY FRIENDS

THE *Blue Beetle*

THE MANTIS AND THE BEETLE

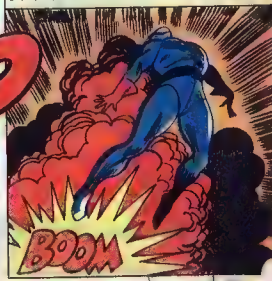
THE MANTIS ... IN NATURAL STATE THE PREDATOR WHICH PREYS ON THE REST OF THE INSECT WORLD... SWOOPED LOW FOR THE BEETLE ...



CLOSE YOUR EYES, JUANITA! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS... DON'T LOOK AT THIS CREATURE!



BLUE BEETLE DIDN'T SEE IT FALL ... BUT MANTIS HAD USED A DEVICE DEVELOPED BY ORDINARY MEN... A GRENADE ...



TAP

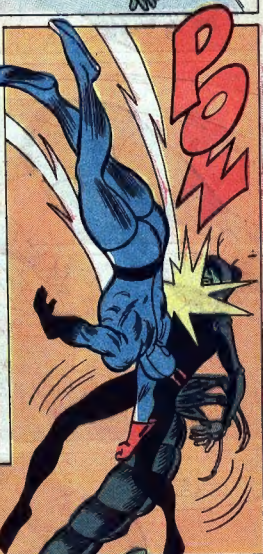
BOOM

BLUE BEETLE WAS SHAKEN BY THE BLAST... BUT HE WASN'T HELPLESS AND WHEN THE PRAYING MANTIS CAME BACK TO FINISH HIM, HE WAS READY...



THE MANTIS MAN WAS STUNNED FOR A MOMENT! BLUE BEETLE PREPARED TO END IT WHEN SUDDENLY JUANITA RIVERA'S SCREAM RANG OUT...

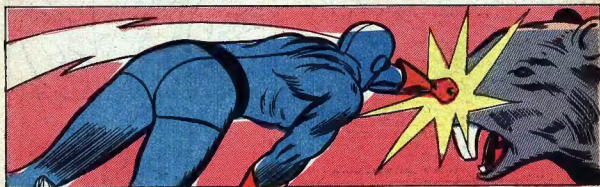
BLUE BEETLE,
HELP ME!



BLUE BEETLE

A MUTATION OF THE RODENT FAMILY... A RAT... HISSED AND DARTED TOWARD THEM, LIKE ALL RATS STARVED FOR FOOD...

BEWARE, BLUE BEETLE...
A BITE FROM THAT RAT
MIGHT BE FATAL!



COME ON... I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF THIS
PLACE!

COME ON! WHEN I GET HOLD
OF THAT UNNATURAL NATURA-
LIST, I'LL MUTATE HIS
MOLECULES!



THE MANTIS MAN WAS OUT OF COS-
TUME... IN HIS LABORATORY... MIXING
UP A BATCH OF HIS MOST POTENT
ELIXIR...

THE FOOLS! THEY DARED
TO INTERFERE! I WILL DESTROY
THEM BOTH!



CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE



YOU WAIT!

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE OUT HERE!

HUNTER MANN WAS THERE... CAUGHT CONCOCTING ONE OF HIS POTIONS...

YOU'VE INTRUDED FOR THE LAST TIME!

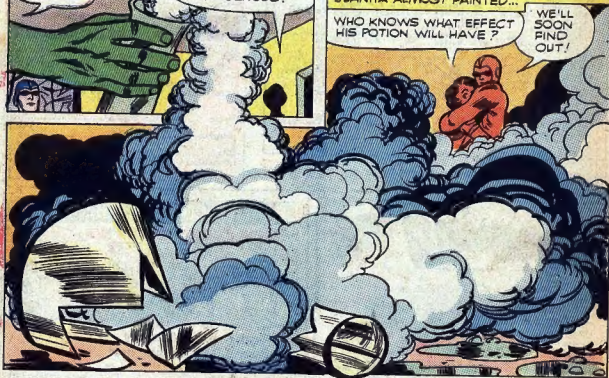
THAT LIQUID, BLUE BEETLE, IT MAY BE DANGEROUS!



HURLING THE FLASK, THE PRAYING MANTIS MAN LAUGHED MADLY AND WAS GONE... AS THE ACRID SMOKE BILLOWED AND CURLED THROUGH THE BUILDING! BLUE BEETLE BREATHED IT AND WAS AFRAID... JUANITA ALMOST FAINTED...

WHO KNOWS WHAT EFFECT HIS POTION WILL HAVE?

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!



IT'S A RAT... LOOKING THE WAY A RAT SHOULD LOOK!

I KNOW... WHICH MEANS... THAT MAD GENIUS TRANSFORMED US INTO GIANTS! DON'T YOU SEE? IF THAT'S A GIANT RAT THEN WE'RE GIANT PEOPLE!

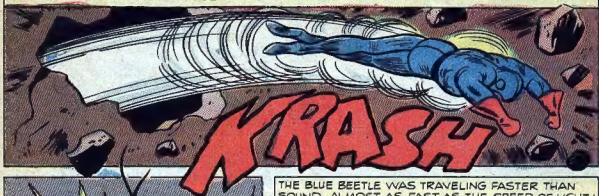
I DON'T WANT TO BE A GIANTESS! JUAN VELOZ, HE LIKED ME THE SIZE THAT I WAS! HE'LL NEVER MARRY A GIRL TEN TIMES BIGGER THAN HE IS!

IT... IT JUST CAN'T BE!



CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

THEN...WITH RELIEF THEY SAW THAT THESE WERE UNTREATED, NORMAL SPECIMENS! BLUE BEETLE WHIRLED...DISREGARDING DOORS AND WINDOWS...ANGRY NOW, IMPATIENT TO END THE IRRESPONSIBLE ANTICS OF THE PRAYING MANTIS MAN...



THE BLUE BEETLE WAS TRAVELING FASTER THAN SOUND, ALMOST AS FAST AS THE SPEED OF LIGHT! WHEN HE SMASHED INTO THE MANTIS MAN...



AND, THEN...TO PATROL THE GARDEN OF CRAWLING DEATH... WHERE SNAKES, MOSQUITOES, BATS, ETC., ETC., AND ALL...NEEDED STOMPIN'!

SUDDENLY, BLUE BEETLE, ALL THE INSECTS HAVE BECOME NORMAL AGAIN!

BECAUSE THE MANTIS MAN'S INFLUENCE IS GONE, JUANITA... WHEN HE CEASED TO EXIST HIS POTIONS LOST THEIR POWER!



AFTER RETURNING THE GIRL TO HER STATION... HER MYSTERY SOLVED AND THE HERDS OF SHEEP SAFE... BLUE BEETLE BECAME DR. DAN GARRETT ONCE MORE...AND HIS FAST TWIN - JET ARROWED EASTWARD TOWARD HIS OWN LAB AND A NEW ADVENTURE!

